

MINUTES WAYNE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 – 9:00 A.M.

Hearing Room 704, Guardian Building, 500 Griswold, Detroit, MI, 48226.

- A. Roll Call 9:05 A.M.
- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Carron L. Pinkins (C) | - Present |
| Edward McCall Thomas (VC) | - EDS (9:15) |
| Sandra Bucciero | - Excused |
| Sue C. Carnell | - Present |
| Mona Hammoud | - Excused |
| Freman Hendrix | - Present |
| Robert P. Young | - Present |
- B. Hendrix/Carnell **Approved.** The minutes from the December 19, 2018 meeting. Motion Carried.
- D. New Business
1. Election of the Ethics Board Chair
- Election of officer:
- a. Chairperson
- Hendrix/Young **Approved.** Nomination for Mr. Pinkins to serve as Chair of the Wayne County Ethics Board. Motion Carried.
- Hendrix/Carnell **Approved.** To elect the Chair and Vice-Chair on an annual basis, with the current terms ending on December 31, 2019. Motion Carried.
2. Discussion of the Ethics Board's contract with Williams Acosta, PLLC.
- Felicia Johnson, Commission Counsel, & Joseph Slezak, Legislative Policy Analyst, provided comments regarding the extension of the Williams Acosta contract.
- Carnell/Thomas **Approved.** To instruct the Department of Corporation Counsel to prepare a two-year

extension of the Williams Acosta, PLLC contract. Motion Carried.

3. Communication from County Executive Warren C. Evans, re: County Treasurer Eric Sabree

Mr. Thomas stated for disclosure that he worked with Mr. Sabree during his tenure at Wayne County in the Department of Corporation Counsel. He also stated that he is an appointee of the Wayne County Executive.

Mr. Hendrix stated for disclosure that he served in administrative position with Mr. Sabree in the past.

Ethics Board Attorney Avery Williams stated that he believes there is no conflict of interest regarding the disclosures expressed by board members. He also stated he would communicate with Mr. Thomas and address his concerns in writing.

The Board inquired from Marcella Cora, Wayne County Legislative Auditor General, regarding the request made by Chair Alisha Bell, Wayne County Commission, to audit the Wayne County Treasurer's Office.

The Committee stated that Mr. Sabree has until March 12 to respond to the complaint made against him.

Mr. Williams stated that if Mr. Sabree does send a response then Mr. Evans can then respond to provide a supplement to the response.

Carnell/Young

Approved. To start the clock for Mr. Sabree's response on February 19, 2019, when Williams Acosta, PLLC delivered Mr. Evans' complaint to Mr. Sabree. Motion Carried.

4. Communication from Kaitlyn Farthing, re: a foreclosed property

Young/Thomas

Passed For the Day. Communication from Kaitlyn Farthing, re: a foreclosed property. Motion Carried.

Mr. Williams will once again contact Ms. Farthing about filing a proper complaint.

5. Communication from Bernard Hardrick, re: LaToya Willis

Young/Thomas

Dismissed. Communication from Bernard Hardrick, re: LaToya Willis. Motion Carried.

The board dismissed the item without prejudice because the complaint does not meet minimum requirements.

6. Communication from Bernard Hardrick, re: Sgt. Donald Farris

Young/Thomas

Dismissed. Communication from Bernard Hardrick, re: Sgt. Donald Farris. Motion Carried.

7. Communication from Bernard Hardrick, re: Sheriff Benny Napoleon

Young/Thomas

Dismissed. Communication from Bernard Hardrick, re: Sheriff Benny Napoleon. Motion Carried.

The Board dismissed items D.6 & 7 together without prejudice because the complaints do not meet minimum requirements.

8. Communication from LaJuan Smith, re: Erika Tusar

Young/Thomas

Passed for the Day. Communication from LaJuan Smith, re: Erika Tusar. Motion Carried.

The Board desired to give Mr. Williams time to conduct additional research.

Dr. Carnell voted no.

9. Communication from Parnell Smith, re: Cpl. Joseph Gawenda

Thomas/Young

Dismissed. Communication from Parnell Smith, re: Cpl. Joseph Gawenda. Motion Carried.

The board dismissed the item without prejudice because the complaint does not meet minimum requirements.

10. Thomas/Carnell

Communication from Michael Bryant, re: County snowplowing.

Passed For The Day. Communication from Michael Bryant, re: County snowplowing. Motion Carried.

Mr. Williams will once again contact Mr. Bryant about filing a proper complaint.

Board members and Mr. Williams discussed what means County inmates have to address complaints aside from submitting them to the Ethics Board. Mr. Williams said he would communicate with Chief Robert Dunlap of the Sheriff's Office.

- E. Such other matters as may be properly submitted before the Committee

Board members asked Mr. Thomas if he would remain as Vice-Chair through December 31, 2019, which is the end of his current term on the board. He said that while he will be unavailable for part of the summer, he would remain in the role.

- F. Public Comments

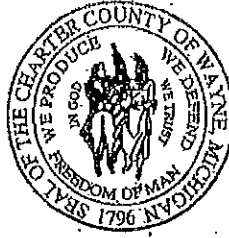
Maureen Taylor, Sylvia Orduno and Marian Kramer provided comments.

- G. Thomas/Young Adjournment: 10:43 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Darcel Brown
Legislative Research Assistant

Wayne County Ethics Board

Carron L. Pinkins - Chair
Edward McCall Thomas - Vice-Chair
Sandra Bucciero
Sue C. Carnell
Mona Hammoud
Freman Hendrix
Robert P. Young



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NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE WAYNE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.
Hearing Room 704, Guardian Building, 500 Griswold, Detroit, MI 48226

The Wayne County Ethics Board has scheduled a meeting of the Board on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 704, Guardian Building, 500 Griswold, Detroit, MI 48226 to consider the following:

- A. Roll Call
- B. Approval of the minutes of the December 20, 2018 meeting
- C. Unfinished Business
- D. New Business
 - 1. Election of the Ethics Board Chair
 - 2. Discussion of the Ethics Board's contract with Williams Acosta, PLLC
 - 3. Communication from County Executive Warren C. Evans, re: County Treasurer Eric Sabree
 - 4. Communication from Kaitlyn Farthing, re: a foreclosed property
 - 5. Communication from Bernard Hardrick, re: LaToya Willis
 - 6. Communication from Bernard Hardrick, re: Sgt. Donald Farris
 - 7. Communication from Bernard Hardrick, re: Sheriff Benny Napoleon

Note 1: This meeting is called in accordance with provisions of the "Open Meetings Act", Act No. 267, Public Acts of 1976. :

Note 2: In accordance with the provisions of Rule 3, "The Chairperson of a Committee, when requested in advance of any given meeting, may permit a person making such request to address the Committee on any matter on the Agenda. Such address shall not be longer than the time allotted by the Chairperson, subject to the approval of the Committee"

Note 3: In accordance with the provisions of Rule 3, "The Chairperson of a Committee, when requested in advance of any given meeting, may permit a person making such request to address the Committee on any matter on the Agenda. Such address shall not be longer than the time allotted by the Chairperson, subject to the approval of the Committee".

8. Communication from LaJuan Smith, re: Erika Tusar
9. Communication from Parnell Smith, re: Cpl. Joseph Gawenda
10. Communication from Michael Bryant, re: County snowplowing
- E. Such other matters as may be properly submitted before the Board
- F. Public Comments
- G. Adjournment